



*Cristen Garrett Haslam*

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As First Lady of Tennessee, I have been working with Cole Elementary and volunteers to organize “Back to School Neighborhood Knocks.” The purpose of these walks is to give Cole Elementary teachers, staff and volunteers an opportunity to meet the families of children who attend Cole Elementary, and to welcome you back to school on August 1. Learning takes place in both the home and the school building, so it’s important that families and schools are communicating regularly. Just by being interested in what children are learning in school and by reading to them at home, parents can make an incredible impact on their child’s education. In fact, many experts say that parental involvement is the best predictor of whether or not a student will graduate from high school. When parents are involved, students and schools are successful.

There are many ways to stay in communication with your child’s school. You may call or email your child’s teacher or stay informed through the school’s website. If you do not have a home computer, your local library and your child’s school are both great places to get internet access. When the time comes for parent-teacher conferences, this is a very important way to stay connected with what your child is learning. Finally, simply reading with your child for 20 minutes each day throughout the school year will have a remarkable impact on their achievement.

In this packet, you will find information about how you can be a partner in your child’s education, including child development information, and resources that are available to families in your community. Our hope is to let you know that Cole Elementary is committed not just to its students, but also to families. Please feel free to reach out to the school if you would like to learn more about any of these resources.

Thank you for welcoming us to your doorstep, and I hope you find the information in this packet helpful. I know from experience that parenting is incredibly difficult—and I also know that every neighborhood has unique needs. Cole Elementary is committed to communicating regularly with you, and to help you support your child’s education at home.

Thank you again for allowing us to visit your home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Crissy".

Crissy Haslam  
First Lady of Tennessee

Tools for parents: <http://www.tn.gov/education/fedprog/fpinvolveparents.shtml>  
Ideas on how you can be more involved: <http://www.teateachers.org/parent-center>